Art Connections Tour
Pre-visit Activity: Zoom In on *The Lone Tenement* by George Bellows

Goal: Before visiting the museum, students practice looking carefully at a work of art, generating questions, and building interpretations. Students discover that looking carefully at a work of art can be a rich experience, that each detail can have meaning, and that listening and talking to each other can contribute to our understanding of the work. The Zoom In routine uses open-ended questions and a conversational approach to encourage engagement and thinking about works of art; this method is similar to the kinds of activities students will experience during their Art Connections tour.

Slide 2: Look carefully for a quiet minute**.** Invite your students to bring their attention to the part of the painting that is revealed, and then ask them to describe as many details as they can. Based on their descriptions, ask students to hypothesize what might be happening in the painting.

Slide 3: In this slide some additional details of the painting are revealed. Invite students to share what new things they notice. Do these new observations change their ideas about what might be happening in the painting? Now is a good time to check in with the students to see if any questions or puzzles have started to surface.

Slide 4: As more information is revealed, repeat the description and interpretation steps.

Slide 5: Finally, the whole painting is revealed. Take a moment just to look.

Slide 6: Invite students to share any new stories the painting seems to tell. Summarize how their interpretations or stories have changed over the course of the activity. Ask students to consider why the artist, George Bellows, might have focused or zoomed in on just one building.

Slide 7: In this final slide, some information about the painting is provided.

After reviewing the information, check in with your students to see if they have any new ideas or questions about this painting after hearing more about it.